

**Cheerful Chelsea
Flower Show
photos**

SEE PAGES 8 & 9



**As season ends,
LRFC hold their
Awards Night**

SEE PAGE 15



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Dissappointing progress in flood mitigation action

Mark Hallam reports on latest flooding meeting with
Council officials and local representatives

Following on from Steve Scofield's update in last week's E&L, a further flooding meeting took place on Monday 25th May at the Buccleuch Centre. Council officials, Councillor Male and local representatives attended.

Steve's key message was confirmed — progress has been made, but much more still needs to be done.

The main concerns remain unchanged. Very little progress has been made on two critical issues:

1. unblocking drains on the Hallpath road system, despite this being promised as far back as February, and

2. carrying out a camera survey of drainage systems down to and beyond the A7. This survey requires coordination with BEAR, who hold important information from previous work.

We were told that Hallpath drain clearance should begin within the next two to six weeks. However, it was acknowledged that failure to complete this before the next storm season could have serious consequences. On a positive note, the council's roads representative is now in regular meetings with BEAR, which should im-

prove coordination and information-sharing.

There has been progress in other areas. Site visits have taken place, and some gully clearance and debris removal from storm drains has been carried out. Work at Ashley Bank is being done contractually, while at Burnside it is still being handled informally by a resident.

Discussions also covered improvements in identifying and responding to drainage issues. This includes equipping site operatives to spot partial blockages more effectively and considering the use of sensors to provide early warnings of storm drain problems.

Resilience

Work is continuing on community resilience measures. This includes providing sandbags to vulnerable properties and improving contact centre response procedures to ensure better prioritisation during emergencies.

Concerns were raised about emergency responses on the A7. Police reportedly did not attend even the two most serious of four flooding incidents between 3rd October and 17th December 2025. So far, BEAR operatives have been the only official responders.



A reminder of the extent of the flooding in Langholm last January

It was suggested that BEAR could take on a role in liaising with police where there is clear risk to life, not just property damage.

Looking ahead

Looking ahead, Councillor Male will continue meeting with council roads representatives and BEAR, although

it was noted that timing of meetings could be improved.

Issues affecting Wheatley Homes residents remain ongoing, with further discussions planned. Engagement with the Golf Club will also continue, both to review progress and explore options to increase drainage capacity before the next storm season. There is also

a need to examine ways to reduce water run-off from the hillside above the golf course.

Another public meeting is planned for September. By then, it is hoped that Hallpath drains will be cleared, camera surveys completed, and storm drainage improvements underway. These results will form the basis of the next discussion.

INSIDE



**Would you
like
eggs for
breakfast?**

Vandals target the
Day Centre and
'egg' the E&L.

See Page 7

Family Announcements

Deaths

PACKER, Carol

On 13th May, at Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, aged 87, Carol, dearly beloved wife of John, loving mother of Jane, Sally and Jonathan, cherished sister of Valerie, and adored Granny of seven grandchildren. A dear and loyal friend to many, she will be so fondly remembered and very much missed.

A private cremation will take place in Wakefield, West Yorkshire and A Service of Thanksgiving for Carol's life will be held on 17th July at 2.00pm at Kirkandrews-on-Esk Church, Longtown, CA6 5NF. Family flowers only but donations to Cancer Research, Cats Protection League - Eskdale Branch and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

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on your
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Anniversary
from
All the family
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Church Notices

**ESKDALE &
LIDDESDALE
PARISH**
linked with
CANONBIE
United Parish
Church

Welcome to worship

Sunday 7 June

led by

Gordon Smith

Worship Leader at

Upper Annandale

Church

Sunday 7 June

CANONBIE

9.30am

LIDDESDALE

11am

Worship Group led

services: -

LANGHOLM

10am

WESTERKIRK

1:30pm

Contact us for transport

to/from the Langholm

service

Tel. 07989168299

Rev Morag Crossan

Tel: 07861 736071

or email

mccrossan@

churchofscotland.org.uk

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012

Editor Alan Weatherstone Features Editor Gilly Fraser

All correspondence to: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

Canonbie Probus hears of thatchers and wallers

Returning for the third time Alex Gibbons was the more than welcome guest speaker at Canonbie Probus Club's meeting last Wednesday.

Alex, who currently lives in The Bothy, Priors Lynn, Canonbie, a Grade A listed "mud house" and the last remaining building of its type in Scotland, restored the Bothy before purchasing it from Buccleuch Estates. In the talk he updated his work and interests. He is a very busy man! Currently he is working for his PhD with the Highlands and Islands University on 'Vernacular Thatching Traditions' while running his own company, 'Stick in the Mud Conservation', a company which renovates old buildings often by replacing old mortar plasterwork with lime-based plaster and renewing the thatch using traditional methods alongside local materials. The latter provides considerable problems as few farms nowadays grow the various types of straw required and so much thatching material has to be imported from China!



Alex Gibbons at the door of The Bothy, Priors Lynn

He is also a fellow of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, a society established by Willim Morris (of Arts and Crafts fame) in 1877. Aside from this he recently curated the Highland Folk Museum at Newtonmore just south of Inverness for over a year, and he runs regular training courses at Dumfries House for potential thatchers and mud wallers.

Sadly Alex and his family will soon be leaving Canonbie and heading to a small holding near Great Orton where his wife will have ground to develop her gardening and flower business and Alex will be able to grow the

various straws, rye, oat and wheat, needed for thatching, using the various threshing machines and Fordson Major tractor he has acquired and restored to working order.

In spite of his commitment to the traditions and working lives of past centuries Alex is up to date with modern technologies and his excellent presentation was accompanied by photos of many of the projects he has worked on. Following interesting discussions with members, appreciative words from the President, and a vote of thanks from the Secretary, the meeting was closed.

Paul Young: Songs and Stories

REVIEW by Anthony Lane

"This is a nice little...er... what is it...town? It's the only Scottish date on our tour. We're staying at that hotel. The Eskdale?"

These were some of the opening words from Paul Young's performance at the Buccleuch Centre last Saturday. Opening words from a man who's probably better known for the opening of 'Do they know it's Christmas' by Band Aid ("It's Christmas time, there's no need to be afraid...")

"All the rest of them were too shy so I volunteered to get the recording going".

Opening words heard in Langholm from a man who sold over 1.2 million copies of his first album 'No Parlez' in the early 1980s, the first of three UK number-one albums and 14 British Top 40 singles.

Paul was prompted to recollect his stories by current fellow band member Jamie Moses of Los Pacaminos. They covered

a rich career of Paul collaborating with such names as George Michael, Stevie Wonder, Chaka Khan, Clannad and many more friends and duets.

Memories of performances were supported by video clips from Live Aid, Princes Trust concerts. There was a particularly moving scene of him singing 'Radio Gaga' to a sea of raised clapping hands at Freddie Mercury's tribute concert at Wembley in 1992.



The two performers took us through many of Paul's hits from the 1980s, including 'Love of the Common People', 'Come Back and Stay'. Okay,

perhaps Paul didn't get to some of the high notes we know him for, but the arrangements did justice to his smooth blue-eyed soulful vocals.

Community Council will work to replace play park equipment!

Buccleuch Park style facility envisaged



After last week's shock removal of the Kilngreen play park equipment, the E&L contacted the Council to ask if and when the items would be replaced:

A Dumfries and Galloway Council spokesperson said, last week:

"The play equipment at Kilngreen was removed following inspection as it was found to be in a dangerous condition and beyond economic repair. The removal was carried out in the interests of public safety.

"There are currently no plans to directly replace the equipment

at this time. However, the council would welcome the opportunity to work with a local community group to develop a project for new equipment."

At its meeting on Monday evening, the Langholm, Ewes, and Westerkirk Community Council unanimously agreed to work with Dumfries and Galloway Council to progress a replacement solution for the damaged play equipment.

The Community Council will now meet with Dumfries and Galloway Council officials to take forward the next steps.

In parallel, the Council will

liaise with windfarm funders and explore opportunities to form a partnership with the phase two development at Buccleuch Park to support the delivery of a long term, sustainable solution for the community.

Chair of the Community Council, Stuart Clement JP, said "This is not going to be an overnight fix. It will take some months for the project to be completed, but the Community Council will do its best for the town and for the children and families who want this play area."

A7 River Esk retaining wall refurbishment

Works to refurbish a retaining wall on the A7 near the River Esk between Langholm and Skippers Bridge are set to begin on 3 June.

Transport Scotland's operating company BEAR Scotland will carry out the project, which is anticipated to last for approximately three months.

Two-way traffic lights will be in place between 21:00 and 07:00 on the nights of 3 June and 26 August, to facilitate the installation and removal of temporary safety barriers before and after the refurbishment is carried out. Traffic will be escorted through the site on these nights.

Consultation has taken place with relevant stakeholders in advance of these works to make them aware of the traffic management arrangements and to minimise any inconvenience.

David Bishop, BEAR Scotland's South East Unit Bridges Manager, said: "This programme of refurbishment is key to ensuring the structural integrity of this retaining wall and will extend its service life for many years to come.

"The works have been planned

to minimise disruption to road users as far as possible, however some delays are to be expected if you are using this route on the nights of 3 June or 26 August.

"We thank road users in advance for their patience and understanding while our teams carry out these essential works."

Live traffic information is available from the Traffic Scotland website www.traffic.gov.scot and on X at @trafficscotland.

All works are weather dependent and are also dependent on the existing condition of the structure, which can't be fully understood until works commence. As such, details provided are subject to postponement, cancellation or rearrangement of dates in the event of adverse conditions or unforeseen circumstances.



New D&G Convener

Dumfries and Galloway Council met on Monday 1 June to elect a new Convener/Depute Leader (Civic Head).

Councillors agreed to elect Councillor Tracey Little to the role.

The special meeting of Full Council was called following Councillor Katie Hagmann's resignation as Convener of the Council.

Cllr Hagmann resigned after being elected MSP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley at the Scottish Parliament Election last month.

She will continue to fulfil her duties as a ward councillor until the Scottish Local Government elections on 6 May 2027.

As Convener/Depute Leader (Civic Head), Cllr Little will chair Full Council and deputise for the Leader when required. In the Civic Head part of the role, Cllr Little will also represent the council at corporate civic and ceremonial events across Dumfries and Galloway.

Cllr Tracey Little will continue to fulfil her existing roles of Dumfries Provost and Chair or the council's Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Committee.

Bridge results

1 Bob Francombe & George Graham 2 Brenda & George Bullamore 3 Nancy McLure & Anne Ferguson 4 = Jim Muir & Barbara Addison and Sandra Ritchie & Fiona Kay 6, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford.

Cronksbank Cottage refurbishment starts

By Angela Williams

It's been a long time since we undertook the first Housing needs and demand survey which was the start of the journey to refurbishing Cronksbank Cottage as an affordable, energy efficient local residential property – but we are finally there and ready to start on site with the building works!

The cottage was part of the community buyout in 2021 from Buccleuch and whilst the property had been fully gutted before the purchase, it does need full refurbishment. We have been working with JD Gilbert Architects to look at sustainable construction techniques to help ensure the property will be as energy efficient as possible to minimise running costs for any future tenant as well as helping to reduce environmental impact.

We would like to thank the



Scottish Governments Rural Housing Fund, South of Scotland Enterprise and Crossdykes Community Benefit fund for the funds they have offered to support the project which have been in addition to our own funds to make this all possible. We are really pleased that the contract for the refurbishment is being undertaken by local contractors Roger and Geoff Maxwell who bring a great deal of experience to the project.

The works should be complete in Autumn, and we hope to see the property occupied before Christmas – we are still working on the allocation process for the property, as you can imagine we have had interest already, but we will be advertising for any interested parties in due course.

We are aiming to have a drop-in session on site to explain the works we are doing to improve energy efficiency so watch this space for the date.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION DAY: HALL BURN RENEWABLE ENERGY SCHEME

Proposed Hall Burn Renewable Energy Scheme, near Canonbie within Borders Estate.

A public consultation event will be held on Tuesday 16th June 2026 at Canonbie Public Hall, Bowholm, Canonbie, DG14 0UX between 2:00pm and 8:00pm where you can view proposals, and the project team will be available to answer any questions.

Consultation boards will also be available to view on our website (www.buccleuch.com) following the event.

Further information about the proposed development may be obtained at the above website, or if unable to view material online, by emailing, writing or contacting Buccleuch, 27 Silvermills Court, Henderson Place Lane, Edinburgh, EH3 5DG, +44 (0) 131 524 0910 (within office hours 9:00am to 5:00pm), info@buccleuch.com

Please note that comments made at the event, or through the above, are to The Buccleuch Group as the Applicant and are not representations to the planning authority.

There will be an opportunity to make representations to the planning authority when an application for planning permission is submitted.

Letters to the Editor

Send yours to: E&L Advertiser,
47A High St, Langholm DG13 0JH or email: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

More on Telford and Wick

Your article highlighting the painting of Thomas Telford in Wick Town Hall has enlightened me about the origin of the name Pultneytown in Wick, which puzzled me on my visits to the town over the years. My late wife Florence was born in the village of Latheronwheel in Caithness and her sister lived in Thurso, having returned North from Edinburgh when her husband was employed at Dounreay. We visited them many times and, as Florence, her sister and her mother had lived in Wick for a few years we often

went there.

I was unaware that Thomas Telford had designed the harbour, amongst his prolific output of churches, roads, bridges and other projects in the North of Scotland, where the logistics of travelling in his days must have been awesome. The harbour is massive and there are photographs in the nearby museum showing the entire harbour filled with dozens of herring drifters. Nowadays there are a few fishing boats, some pleasure craft and one or two commercial vessels; changed days.

Wick is now on the so called NC500 route and traffic volumes are extremely high, a huge contrast to our early days of travelling North in the 1970s and even more so when Telford travelled on horseback.

Jim Graham
Clydebank



Wick harbour

Appeal from Dentist

Over recent years, we have been working hard to recall patients for routine NHS dental examinations and to ensure patients continue to have access to regular dental care. As part of this process, we have identified a significant number of patients, many of whom previously attended Miss Jayne Grunwell at the former Langholm dental practice, whom we have been unable to contact.

When Jayne moved her care to our Annan practice, patients were written to and invited to continue their care with us. While both Miss Jayne Grunwell and Mr Gunning now provide private dental care, we remain committed to supporting NHS dentistry locally. To help maintain NHS provision in our area, both have taken on mentoring roles for newly qualified NHS dentists within the practice. This has become an important part of our strategy to address the ongoing challenges of recruiting dentists to a rural area and we are due to welcome our 10th Junior Dentist this year.

We are proud to have developed

a strong reputation as a training practice, attracting newly qualified dentists who are supported to develop their skills and confidence while providing NHS care for local patients. As a result, former patients of Miss Jayne Grunwell who require NHS care can continue to be looked after by our wider clinical team.

We suspect, over the years, many people have changed mobile numbers, landline numbers, email addresses and home addresses without updating their dental records. As a result, we have found that a number of patients remain registered under the NHS with us but have not attended for some time and we have been unable to reach them.

We would therefore encourage anyone who was previously a patient of Miss Jayne Grunwell in Langholm and has not attended recently to get in touch with our team. Even if patients are unsure whether they remain registered with us, we would be happy to check and, where appropriate, update their contact details and arrange an appointment.

Anyone wishing to update their details or enquire about their registration can contact Gunning Dental on

01461 202508 or email
hello@gunningdental.com.
Gillian Gunning
Gunning Dental, Annan

Thanks for support

John, Heather and Rosie would like to thank everyone for all the support, cards and kind thoughts over what continues to be a very difficult time.

There was a collection made at Isaac's funeral which has been donated to the Princess Royal Maternity Hospital Neonatal Unit through the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. We were very humbled by the donations left in the church and also given to us personally afterwards and it gave us a great sense of peace to be able to hand over £1500 to enable the team in the hospital to help continue the amazing work they do on a day to day basis.

The team became our second family during our time spent in Glasgow. Thanks once again to the community of Langholm, you have held us up in our time of need.

John and Heather Innes
Langholm

To donate, visit
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/PRMBF>

D&G litter plans move forward

A coordinated approach to tackling litter, fly-tipping and dog fouling in Dumfries and Galloway is set to move forward, with councillors considering next steps on 9 June. A report to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee outlines plans for a Litter Prevention Strategy and Draft Litter Reduction Action Plan, informed by more than 1,100 responses from residents, communities and businesses.

Feedback highlights strong support for a joined-up approach focused on practical improvements, education, enforcement and partnership working. The draft plan centres on five priorities: improving infrastructure such as bins and signage; encouraging behaviour change; strengthening enforcement; supporting community action; and working more closely with businesses.

If approved, early implementation will begin through cross-service collaboration, with a final strategy expected later this year. Although independent audits show high levels of street cleanliness, public perception—particularly in rural and roadside areas—does not always reflect this. Ongoing work includes reinstating layby bins, increasing roadside cleansing, and working with partners such as the haulage industry to tackle persistent litter issues.

Emily has clocked up 100 hours of volunteering

Tarras Valley Nature Reserve team were delighted to see their young volunteer Emily Ferguson, 16, from Canonbie hit her 100-hour volunteering target and achieve the Saltire Award. The Saltire Awards are the Scottish Government's way of celebrating, recognising and rewarding the commitment, contribution and achievements of young volunteers in Scotland.

Emily has been volunteering weekly for over a year at Tarras Valley initially getting involved with weekly practical volunteering sessions like tree planting and then has honed her interest in helping with schools' sessions and outdoor classroom activities with local children as well as helping with wildlife surveys. She also attended the recent Holywood Trust young people's awards in Dumfries which recognised the work and efforts of young people across the region.

Jenny Barlow, Reserve Manager said "Emily has been a real asset to the team and we've

really enjoyed seeing her grow in confidence over the past year while she's been volunteering with us. She has been really dedicated and shown such enthusiasm showing up in all weathers to get stuck in with whatever has needed doing! It's been lovely to have a young volunteer as part of the team and it's great to see Emily get an award like this to recognise all her hard work".

Emily said "the opportunity to volunteer at Tarras has been the best, it's just like one big family and I feel like I just fit in. I love wildlife and nature and the chance to be part of the



full restoration project over the reserve means a lot to me to be able to see the growth of Tarras over the years to come, I'll be aiming to add on as many hours as I can to achieve my next certificate".

Emily Ferguson of Canonbie
receives her Saltire Award from
Jenny Barlow of TVNR

No win but great effort for Rotary Quiz Four



Congratulations to Martha, Ella, Murray and Cieran who travelled to Kirkintilloch, Glasgow recently to participate in the Rotary Scotland Quiz, South District Final 2026.

They worked well against 18 teams and although they didn't win, they were very pleased with how well they did. We are very proud of you!

Many thanks to their parents for taking the time to take them there and supporting them.



A night in the company of a Strictly legend



Craig Revel Horwood, described by some as a national treasure, is appearing at the Buccleuch Centre in June with his show 'Revelations, Songs Boys Don't Sing'.

Born in Australia Craig is now the longest-serving judge on BBC One's Strictly Come Dancing and is the master of the Glitter Ball. After starting as a dancer, he worked on the nation's biggest musicals and became a choreographer, director, and best-selling author. Craig has been a drag queen and as twice been nominated for the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Theatre Choreographer for his work on 'Spend, Spend, Spend' and the musical 'My One and Only'.

Craig is also a remarkable singer, and to celebrate the release of his debut solo album – and new book, 'Revelations' – he'll reveal his own, hidden talent during a Fab-U-Lous night of big songs, tall tales, and glamour. Expect dancing, tales from Strictly Come Dancing, plenty of laughs – and, yes, an unexpected cookery demonstration. Revelations is the show that keeps giving for fans of dance, music, comedy, and the nation's best-loved dance show.

The show is on **Wednesday 24th June** and a Meet and Greet is available. You could also book a pre-show meal and make it a big night out.

NHS waiting lists fall for 15 months

According to the Scottish Government waiting lists continue to fall in Scotland with new outpatient waits over a year decreasing for 11 consecutive months and inpatient and day case waits reducing for 15 months in a row. Latest Public Health Scotland statistics show that as at 30 April 2026, new outpatients waits of over a year have fallen by 7.0% compared to March 2026. These waits have reduced every month since July 2025 with total waits over 52 weeks down by 76.5% in that period.

The data also shows long waits for inpatient and day case procedures have fallen every month since July 2025 with 52 week waits decreasing by 47.4% in that period. Waits for one of the eight key diagnostic tests are now at their lowest level since May 2021. Latest quarterly figures until 31 March 2026 show waits across endoscopy fell by 6% and radiology by 10% when compared to the previous quarter, with 52% of endoscopy tests and 78% of radiology tests having been ongoing for less than six weeks – the highest figure for both test types since March 2020. Waits



of over a year in these specialties also fell sharply, with endoscopy down 67% and radiology down 4% compared to March 2025.

Extra appointments

This progress comes as Scottish Government pledges on extra appointments are surpassed. The promise to provide 150,000 additional appointments last year has been exceeded,

with latest data showing 168,177 additional appointments and procedures were carried out in the financial year up to March 2026 compared to same period in the previous year. New figures also show in the first nine months of 2025-26, 34,089 procedures were carried out in National Treatment Centres, surpassing the commitment to see planned activity increasing to over 30,000.

Canonbie CC elects Chairman

At the extraordinary General Meeting of Canonbie and District CC in Canonbie Hall on Tuesday evening called to try and elect a new chairman a chairman was elected.

Councillor Debbie Axon was unanimously appointed to the post.

After further discussion, with the members of the public present, five nominations were put forward to be co-opted to the community council. This will take place at the CCs monthly meeting in Half Morton Hall next week.

LEWCC funding reminder

Langholm, Ewes, and Wester Kirk Community Council is reminding local groups and organisations to submit their applications for windfarm funding by 12 noon on 15 June. Application forms can be requested by emailing lewcc-grants@outlook.com

Lumo to give Lockerbie rail links a major boost

A new rail service between Stirling and London Euston is set to improve connectivity for passengers across Dumfriesshire, particularly through enhanced links at Lockerbie station. Dumfriesshire MSP Craig Hoy, who joined Lumo on the inaugural Stirling-to-London journey, welcomed the move as a major boost for transport links between Dumfriesshire and the rest of the UK.

Craig Hoy MSP said:

"Lumo is introducing four daily return services between Stirling and London Euston, with trains calling at Lockerbie, Carlisle and several major destinations across the UK. The new timetable will give passengers greater choice, lower fares and more flexibility for both business and leisure travel. For residents in Dumfriesshire, the route marks a significant improvement in long-distance rail connectivity, with Lockerbie passengers gaining additional direct services to London, Preston, Crewe and Milton Keynes.



Lumo is introducing four daily return services between Stirling and London Euston

"Lumo has built its reputation on affordable rail travel, with fares on the new route expected to start at under £30 between Stirling and London. The operator says the service is designed to deliver customer-focused, low-cost travel while encouraging more people to switch from road to rail.

"There is also real potential

for a boost to the local tourism economy, with improved rail access through Lockerbie helping attract more visitors to Dumfries and Galloway. It is important this opportunity is fully grasped and that other gaps in our transport network are addressed. That is what I will continue working towards in the months and years ahead."

Contact John Lamont MP

Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk

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The costs of this publication have been met out of parliamentary resources.

Farming on the Border



In association with
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Farming with Gilly Fraser

Cheap food comes at a cost

Low prices for the weekly shopping may seem a blessing but they risk placing the future of domestic food production at risk.

That's the stark warning from NFU Scotland leader Andrew Connon who says continued downward pressure on prices risked damaging the long-term resilience of the country's farming sector.

"Cheap food comes at a cost," he said.

"If governments and retailers continue to focus solely on driving prices down, we risk eroding the very foundations of our domestic food production system.

"Scottish farmers and crofters are proud to produce high-quality food with world-leading standards of animal welfare, environmental stewardship and traceability.

"But those standards come with a cost, and producers cannot continue absorbing pressure from every direction while

returns are squeezed further."

The warning comes as farmers and crofters continue to face mounting financial pressure from rising input costs, labour shortages, volatile markets, extreme weather and increasing regulation.

At the same time, producers are competing against imported food produced to standards that would not be permitted in Scotland or the wider UK.

NFUS has repeatedly highlighted profitability as essential to the future of agriculture, warning that without viable farm businesses there can be no long-term investment in food production, climate measures or rural communities.

Its long-term vision remains focused on securing 'a profitable and sustainable future for Scottish agriculture'.

He says the union is not asking for special treatment, just a fair marketplace, clear labelling and a level playing field.

Farmers and gamekeepers praised for fire-fighting

Farmers and gamekeepers who turned out in force to tackle a potentially huge wild-fire have been praised by emergency services.

The fire at Eastside Farm in the Pentland Hills saw firefighters attend from stations across the south-east of Scotland.

They were joined in their efforts by 16 gamekeepers and 14 farmers from ten estates, farms and rural businesses. They came armed with fogging units, all-terrain vehicles and a tractor which was used to tackle the fire across steep and challenging ground.

The fire lasted for several hours and affected approximately 17 hectares. But experts say without the rapid and widescale intervention, it could easily have spread over 550 hectares, with the potential for a much larger escalation across Black Hill and the main Pentland ridge.



Moorland on fire

The blaze also had the potential to damage swathes of sensitive moorland habitat and to destroy the nests of ground-nesting birds during the breeding season.

Jenny Cowan of Eastside Farm expressed her thanks to all involved.

"Without the swift action of amazing volunteers, this wildfire

would have been significantly worse. The farming and gamekeeping communities were exceptional, utterly selfless and brave in what was a frightening and fast-moving situation," she said.

Scottish Land & Estates Director of Moorland Ross Ewing said the incident underscores the fundamental impor-

tance of estates and rural businesses working in partnership with the SFRS when it comes to responding to wildfire incidents.

"The people who work this land every day bring specialist knowledge, practical skills and equipment that the public sector alone cannot replicate at short notice," he said.

AI seminar in Finland for savvy Young Farmers

If you are a member of Young Farmers and interested in AI, then a seminar being planned for this Autumn could be of interest to you.

The seminar has been organised by Rural Youth Europe and will be held in Finland, bringing together youth leaders, educators, and digital creators as well as the farmers of the future.

The aim of the event is to give young farmers the skills they need to create what's described as "an innovative educational tool that strengthens critical thinking skills in the context of artificial intelligence, digitalisation, and disinformation."

The programme will combine interactive workshops, group work, and hands-on creation sessions. Participants will work in teams to design, test, and refine the game to ensure it is engaging, inclusive, and adaptable for different rural contexts.

Organisers say participants will learn how to critically assess AI-generated content and digital information and will be part of creating a real educational tool that will be used across Europe.

They will also develop skills in design thinking, gamification, and digital content creation, collaborate with young people, educators, and experts from different countries, strengthen their leadership and teamwork skills, and exchange ideas, experiences, and best practices in youth work.

Perhaps most inviting of all is that they will experience a unique international environment



in Finland.

Participants must be over 18 and be active in a youth organisation, education or community work and be able to show an interest in artificial intelligence.

Kirsty to be vet Chair

Dumfries-based Acting Registrar with SRUC, Kirsty Young RVN has been elected as the new Chair of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Kirsty has worked in veterinary nursing education for more than twenty years. She qualified as a veterinary nurse in 1999 and has served as an elected member of VN Council since 2024.

She follows in the footsteps of Belinda Andrews-Jones RVN who was elected to the position of Vice-Chair of VN Council, which she will also hold for three years.

Kirsty said it was an honour to be elected to the post.

"After more than 25 years in veterinary nursing across clinical practice, education and governance, I'm very proud to take on this role at such an important time for the profession," she said.

"My time on VN Council has been both rewarding and inspiring, and I have valued the opportunity to work alongside dedicated colleagues committed to supporting veterinary nurses and advancing the profession. These experiences have reinforced the importance of collaboration, inclusivity and strengthening the veterinary nursing voice.

"As Chair, I look forward to supporting the continued development, recognition and wellbeing of veterinary nurses, while helping to shape the future of the profession through ongoing legislative reform.



Kirsty Young with her dog Islay

"I am committed to driving positive progress and championing the vital contribution veterinary nurses make to animal health and welfare every day."

Kirsty will be responsible for leading VN Council which makes decisions on issues such as the accreditation of veterinary nursing qualifications, student enrolments and international veterinary nurse registrants.

Vandals target Day Centre and egg the E&L

OK, I know it's only an egg, but there's much more to it than that

By Alan Weatherstone

This is the title of a song by much-loved American Crooner Dean Martin from 1952. However...

It takes a special kind of civic pride to stand in the dark, clutching a carton of discount eggs, and declare war on an office window. Truly, the masterminds behind the assault on the E&L office must have felt like revolutionaries—nothing says “stick it to the system” quite like a streak of yolk slowly sliding down glass.

Of course, the real brilliance lies in targeting places that serve the community. Offices, day centres—bastions of paperwork and, apparently, irresistible targets for airborne omelettes. The aftermath is less cinematic: staff arriving to a mess, time wasted scrubbing, resources diverted from doing anything actually useful.

And just when it seems the pointlessness has reached its peak, along comes similar van-

dalism at Langholm Day Centre with outside chairs damaged. Because if you're going to demonstrate a complete lack of consideration, why stop at one building when you can inconvenience people who genuinely need support?

What looks like childish mischief quickly adds up to something more serious: a disregard for shared spaces, for other people, and for the community itself.

Day Centre

By Sandra Graham

Langholm Day Centre has been left counting the cost after a recent spate of vandalism at its outdoor seating area, a space intended for the whole community to enjoy—especially during the better weather.

Over recent weeks, the area has suffered repeated damage, leaving staff to deal with the aftermath. The fence surrounding the seating area has been broken on several occasions, plant pots

and chairs have been overturned or destroyed, and litter and food waste have been left strewn across the site. Many mornings, those arriving to open up have been met with broken glass and vomit, creating both a safety hazard and an unpleasant environment for residents.

Despite clear notices asking visitors to “please leave as you find,” the behaviour has continued. As a result, the Day Centre has been forced to take additional measures to protect the space.

Committee Chairman John Hammond expressed his disappointment at the situation, noting both the impact on the community and the financial strain on the organisation.

“The behaviour is very disappointing,” he said. “We want this to be a welcoming area for everyone, but instead we're having to spend time and money repairing damage and cleaning up after repeated incidents.”

To prevent further destruction, the Day Centre has spent around £500 securing the summer seating



to the ground so it cannot be moved or broken. In addition, a CCTV system has now been purchased and installed in the hope of deterring further vandalism. The Day Centre emphasises

that the outdoor seating area exists for the benefit of the whole town and hopes that, with these new measures in place, it can once again be enjoyed safely and respectfully

MSP: Priority for Borders Railway

Rachael Hamilton MSP has written to the Scottish Government's new Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport, Stephen Flynn MSP, urging him to prioritise and accelerate progress on extending the Borders Railway to Hawick, Newcastleton and onto Carlisle. In her letter, Ms Hamilton highlighted the progress already being made on the project, including the funding that has been secured for a feasibility study, and stressed the significant economic and transport benefits the railway extension could deliver for communities across the Scottish Borders.

The Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire MSP said the extension would help connect rural communities, strengthen public transport links and support economic growth by boosting tourism, creating jobs and making it easier for people to live and work across the region. Ms Hamilton has also invited the Cabinet Secretary to visit the Borders and meet local stakeholders, including the Campaign for Borders Rail, to discuss how progress on the project can be accelerated.

Creation Mill helped inspire Degree Show

Everyone at Creation Mill is thrilled to showcase the stunning work of Henrietta Matthews at her Degree Show last week at Heriot Watt University in Galashiels.

Henrietta came to Creation Mill in January 2025 on a 12-week placement for work experience. Using the machines in our wool room, she enjoyed creating raw fleece into felted products developing a garden range from hanging basket liners to natural tubers for plants. (Available to purchase through our scrap store.)

This inspired her to use these felted sheets for her final collection.



Henrietta Mathews with her Heriot Watt Degree Show

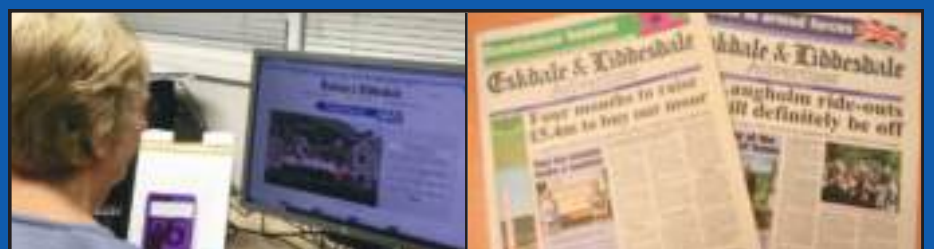
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A spectacular event down Chelsea way

Our gardening columnist Helen Knowles is forever in awe of ‘The Best Flower Show in the World’

A visit to a flower show is always a great outing and even more so when it's the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. I was fortunate this year to be given a ticket for Press Day and certainly wasn't going to turn down the opportunity to view the show without the crowds!

The show site is deceptively small; TV coverage always gives the impression that it covers far more ground than it actually does. Even so, there is so much to see that it's hard to do it all justice in one day, but I did my best, beginning of course in the great Floral Pavillion. Here nurseries and plant societies from around the UK and further afield stage the most wonderful displays of garden and house plants, cut flowers, vegetables and even fungi. The displays range in size; from the huge and dramatic South African Flora of the South Cape and the dreamy, fragrant rose gardens of Peter Beales and David Austin, through to the medium sized rock garden of Kevock Garden Plants and then the small but exquisite Primula

auricula display of Summerdale Garden Nursery. The range of plants on display was truly stunning; from exotic proteas and orchids to hostas and ferns and everything in between, a veritable plant paradise.

Moving outside it was time to explore the show gardens and there were some great design ideas and planting combinations. I particularly liked the water features in The Appleshaw Goddard Flourish in the City garden and the planting in the Eden Project Bring Me Sunshine Garden caught my eye as it comprised of coastal edible plants, including one of my favourites; Scots Lovage (*Ligusticum Scoticum*). It was exciting to hear that this garden will be relocated to Morecambe Bay where it will be part of the new Eden Project development, set to be fully open in late 2028 that is definitely on my wish list to visit.

It's always exciting to discover a 'new' plant and The Asthma + Lung UK Breathing Space garden provided that. It was a beautiful and tranquil garden which I enjoyed exploring but some



Art Fe' Hairy Coo's



Art Fe' Hairy Coo's



South Africa Flora of the Cape



James Doran-Webb Pegasus and Swan

large, rounded, glossy leaves that looked almost tropical really sparked my interest. I eventually discovered that the plant was *Farfugium japonicum* var. *giganteum* (Giant Leopard plant or tractor seat plant – great name and so descriptive), a hardy(ish) evergreen perennial from Japan where it grows on stream-sides and the seashore. Needless to say it didn't take long to do a quick online search and source a few of these amazing plants which I'll test out in the garden at home to see just how hardy they really are.



Hostas Galore



Houseplant Studio



Flourish in the city garden

As if all the plant display and gardens aren't enough then there are all of the other stands with an overwhelming selection of all things gardening and plant related but I'm always drawn to the sculptures. Art Fe' are regular exhibitors at flower shows and their life-size Hairy Coos made from chain are really something special, as are the driftwood sculptures of James Doran-Webb. The scale of some of his creations is simply breathtaking (life-size Pegasus anyone?), and no doubt the price tag too. I might just have to drop a few hints to the joiner in my life and leave a few pictures lying around in the hope that he has some spare bits of wood and a few hours, days or even weeks to create something for the garden. Pegasus took four years apparently so I may have to settle for something smaller; a dormouse perhaps?

The 2027 Chelsea Flower Show will take place from 19th -22nd May 2027 at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London

...Liddesdale Lineup...

By Gilly Fraser

Newcastleton Primary school is not under threat

Newcastleton has been told the future of the village Primary School is definitely not under threat.

The reassurance came from Scottish Borders Council Director of Education Lesley Munro when she attended a packed public meeting in the village last week.

She was accompanied by Cllr Julie Pirone, SBC Executive Member for Education, and local MSP Rachael Hamilton was also present.

Parents had been angered after they were informed by newsletter of plans to cut the number of classes from the current three down to two – with P1-3 in one class and P4-7 in the other. This would also mean the loss of one teacher.

Lesley Munro admitted she had been completely taken aback by the strength of the opposition to the move.

She and Cllr Pirone insisted that composite classes are normal in schools throughout the Borders but accepted that the school could return to three classes if the pupil role increases in the future.

However, members of the audience pointed out that his move would send out a negative



The reassurance came from Scottish Borders Council Director of Education Lesley Munro

message about the village, which could in turn dissuade new families from coming to live here and could make the numbers fall still further.

Under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act of 2010, local authorities have to navigate what's described as "a rigorous, community-focused process" before making any changes.

Campaigners are currently waiting to hear from Cabinet Secretary for Education, Mairi McAllan, on whether this could apply to Newcastleton Primary.

The meeting did result in some specific commitments being made by the Director of Educa-

tion – she promised to look at current transport arrangements for the school and said she will look at ways to attract families to the village and the school.

Mike Allen, who is leading the campaign to save the classes, says he found the meeting frustrating as it did not answer all of their questions, but he promised that the fight is far from over.

"I know tonight felt like we were not being listened to," he said. "But I want to say this clearly – they came here. They sat in front of you. They made commitments. And now we make sure those commitments are kept."

Popular riding school is moving not closing

There's good news for the riders who feared they were about to lose Lads Lodge.

The centre near Newcastleton is closing down – but it's moving just a few miles south and will be re-opening for business on new premises.

Lads Lodge near Penton, has been owned and run since 2019 by Sabine Bliss and has become much-loved by riders of all ages and their families.

But when Sabine's partner Derek died unexpectedly in 2022, he left no Will, and although local people did everything they could to help with various fundraising efforts, the decision was taken to close the centre.

Now though it's been announced that Lads Lodge is to start afresh at Greenlands Equestrian Centre in Wreay just outside Carlisle.

The move will be made on July 13th and the first big event on the calendar for Lads Lodge in its new setting will be a non-residential pony camp from July 18-20.

The camp will include opportunities for fun activities, including dressage test riding, jumping, cross-country, vaulting and more.



Lads Lodge has produced some top-class Vaulters

Sabine says she's very excited to be starting this much needed new chapter in her life.

School Sports Day brings out athletic kids and adults

Well done to all who took part in the Newcastleton Primary School Sports Day – both children and adults.

Pupils all the way from ELC to P7 took part and it was great to see how they helped and encouraged one another.

The Sports Championship Shield was won by Castleton, but everyone agreed that all the children were winners on the day.



Spate of Farm Thefts

There's been a series of thefts from farms in Liddesdale and police are treating the thefts as linked. They want to hear from anyone who may have seen anything suspicious.

Between 8pm on Wednesday, 27 May, and 8.30am on Thursday, 28 May, a green and white Rice horse box was stolen from a farm off the B6399 near Hermitage.

During the same period, a black Vauxhall Antara, registration PE62 XAF, a red Suzuki quad bike and Milwaukee power tools were stolen from another farm in the same area.

A green Yamaha quad bike, registration PX74 WBF, was also stolen from a farm in the Newcastleton area.

Detective Constable Megan Shiel says enquiries are ongoing.

"We are particularly keen to hear from anyone who may have seen the stolen car or quad bikes, or who may have dash-cam footage from the areas around the time of the incidents.

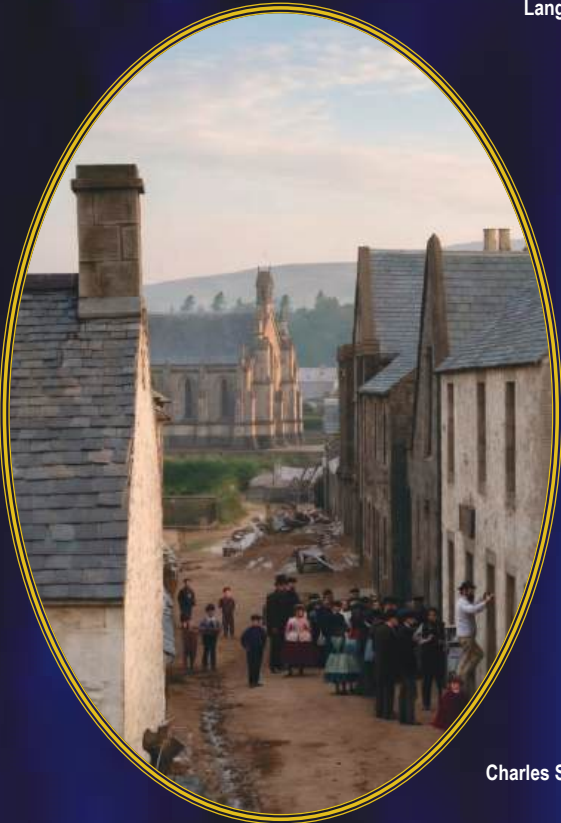
"I would also urge those in rural communities to ensure vehicles, outbuildings and farm properties are secured, and that keys are kept in a safe place and out of sight."



Langholm Bridge from Boatford 1868



Waverley Mill 1868



Charles Street Old 1861



The Market Place 1880



Erkinholme House 1886



Langholm Town Hall
and Market place
1890



The
Ford Mill
1870

More of Stuart Tedham's 'old photos revisited'



Looking back...

Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie tells of a 'melancholy incident'

Previous to the building of the bridge at Gilnockie about the year 1745, parishioners on the west side of the Esk had no access to the Church on the east side, except by wading, riding on horseback when the river was fordable, or passing over by boat.

The crossing was not always effected without accident.

On a Sunday morning in November 1696, a boat crossing from the Church after service, during which time the river had risen in flood, was overturned with the loss of 28 lives: only seven out of the 35 passengers escaped death. Two stones from the kirkyard, now built into the boundary wall, near the entrance gate, record the names of two of the victims of the tragic occurrence,

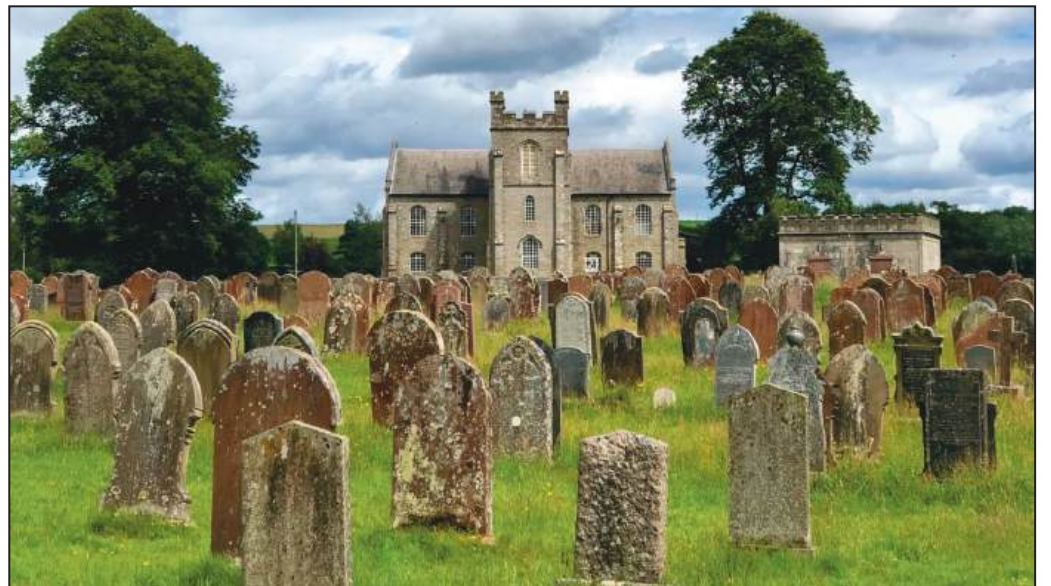
The records of Canonbie Church at this date are missing; but we find the rector of Kirkandrews-on-Esk, a few miles further down the river, has endeavoured to embellish the pages of his Church Record with a somewhat crude account of the melancholy incident, inscribed with a noticeable indifference as to following the same spelling throughout, in phraseology typical of the times:

Upon Nov 1, 1696, yer hap-pened a very sad accident 28 people were drowned at Canabie

Boat as yey were passing yt water from church. Six persons came to years of discretion went from yer own Church to Canaby. Every one of them was drowned. These six lived in my parish. There hap-pened in year company two boys of 9 and 11 years old. They were in ye midst of ye pool over head and ears in water with ye rest of ye people yt (that) were drowned. And yet by a distinguishing privilege yese two only got out of ye water safe. Surely god almight thereby showed his displeasure to these persons who being of age passed by yer own parish Church to Canaby but showed his mercy to ye boys, who knew not wt yey did, but went for company sake. In suffering persons of age that were of my parish to be drowned and in preservinge two lads safe even in as great danger in all human probailiity as ye rest. This is so distinbuiishing a evidence yt every one ought to take notice of it and take heed how yey run from year own parish Church. But ye thing is certain as witness my hand.

(Signed) EDW WILTSHIRE,
Rector

Canonbie Church in early times was commonly spoken of as the Kirk of Liddel. Dedicated to St Martin, it belonged to the Priory of Canonbie and passed with it under the jurisdiction of the



Canonbie Church today

Abbey of Jedburgh.

The sacred edifice at Halgreen, in the parish, was founded in 1150 for Canons Regular of St Augustine and came to be known as "The Canonbie" (ie habitation or dwelling-place of canons) and thus gave its name to the parish.

There is still a right of way from the present church to the site but few remains are to be seen of the ancient building.

Solway Moss

After the battle of Solway Moss in 1542 the English troopers wantonly destroyed the Priory.

It is recalled that during the Wars of Succession the Prior of Canonbie, together with the incumbents of the churches of Ewes and Westerkirk, swore fealty to the English King Edward I but the inhabitants of Canonbie never renounced their claim to be regarded as Scottish subjects.

Turning to the sphere of agriculture, we find a comment in regard to what appears to be the introduction of the scythe to Canonbie district. Up to this period (1790) the crops were cut with a common sickle.

The tenant of Woodhouselees,

James Bell by name, claims that "with the scythe, two mowers and three attendants for collecting and sheaving the corn thus cut, will do more work and to better purpose than double that number in the other way."

As an indication of the rapid development of the land, it is stated that at the period of which we write there were in Canonbie 208 ploughs in use, also 407 horses and 217 carts. Sixty years previously there were only two carts, two waggons and one four-wheeled carriage in the whole of the parish.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 28th May 2026

CONTACT NUMBERS:

John Walton	07880 527 066
Daniel Lynn	07584 200 489
Nick Woodmass	07442 246 063
Sam Hogg	07584 207323
Norman Douglas	07786 366 833
Helen Rickard	07741 313 029



C&D Auction Marts had forward an entry of 3,129 sheep comprising of 251 spring lambs, 1,209 hoggs and 1,669 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 28th May 2026.

NEW SEASON SPRING LAMBS

An increased entry of 251 spring lambs with the handy weight well bred lambs selling with ease, many more numbers required on a weekly basis as more firms look to switch over the next coming weeks.

Top price per head of £290 for a tremendous Beltex lamb shown by JA & LA Thompson, Woodhead, Scaleby, which also achieved the top price per kilo of 547p.

Overall average 448.4p (SQQ 452.5p)

Principal Prices (Per Head)

Beltex £290 Woodhead.
Suffolk £272 Wester Oathlaw, £222 Beckhall, £220 Kilnford Croft, £210 Rigfoot.
Texel £240 Braehead, £239 Kimmeter Green, £232 Mansfield Cottage, £230 Dashwell Green, £228 Braehead.
Oxford £228, £212 Guards.
Charollais £228 Beckfoot.

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex 547p Woodhead.
Texel 489p, 488p Braehead, 479p Dashwell Green, 477p Kilnford Croft, 476p Dashwell Green, 473p Kimmeter Green.
Suffolk 469p Dashwell Green, 463p Guardsmill, 453p Studholme Bungalow & Wester Oathlaw, 449p Kilnford Croft.
Charollais 447p, 439p Beckfoot.
Dutch Spotted 440p Mid Derry.
Hampshire 439p, 428p Steel Hall.
Oxford 433p Guards.

PRIME HOGGS

A small entry of 1,209 prime hoggs forward with a lot of cleaning up hoggs on offer. Heavies were in very big demand, constantly selling between £230-250 and handy weight well fed hoggs regularly at 430-450p per kilo.
Top price of £266 for Texel hoggs from J Donaghue, Trawill, Todhills with top per kilo of 497p for Beltex from M Dunlop, Corstane, Broughton
Overall average 397.7p (SQQ 400.3p)

Principal prices (Per head)

Texel £266 Trawill, £253 Broomhills, £252 South Bogbain, £250 Pow-heads.
Beltex £260 Broomhills, £254 Currie Inn, £249 Drummuie, £244, £243

Broomhills.
Cheviot £257, £243 Skelfhill, £232 South Bogbain & Becks, £230 Lurgan, Hindhope & South Bogbain.
Charollais £254 Lanehead.
Lleyn £254 South Bowerhouses.
Cheviot Mule £253 South Bogbain.
Suffolk £248, £246 South Bogbain, £245 Broomhills, £243, £232 South Bogbain.
Blue Texel £245, £222 Meikle Dykes.
Easycare £244 Monellie.
Blackface £230 Cowden Burn, £228 Kirkhouse, £220 Cowden Burn.
Mule £214 Kirkhouse, £210 Wydon Eals, £205 Blackford, £200 Mosser Gate & South Bogbain.

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex 497p, 481p Corstane, 475p Lurgan, 473p Killoclaw, 469p Broomhills.
Texel 482p, 462p Heathery Hall, 458p South Bogbain, 455p High Trehwitt, 453p Pasture House.
Suffolk 454p South Bogbain, 447p Heathery Hall, 446p, 439p South Bogbain.
Cheviot 452p Thornship, 451p Malls-gate Hall, 446p Pasture House, 444p Blackside, 442p Longoe.
Easycare 444p, 443p, 440p High Trehwitt.

Blackface 441p Heathery Hall, 440p Pasture House, 438p Laughtmuirsire, 436p Heathery Hall, 434p New House.
Shetland 438p, 418p Heathery Hall.
Blue Texel 437p, 423p Meikle Dykes.
Cheviot Mule 429p South Bogbain.
Mule 428p Kirkhouse.
Herdwick 397p Mosser Gate.

CAST EWES AND RAMS

A smaller show of 1,669 cast ewes and rams forward with the best ewes much dearer again on the week, whilst heavy ewes remaining similar. Plainer sorts met some resistance. Many more ewes needed going forward.
Texel ewes sold to a top of £395 from Blackside Farms.
Cheviot ewes selling to £188 from RM Fishwick, Thornship, Shap.
Rams topped at £290 for a Texels from Horsemarket.

Heavy ewes

Texel £395 Blackside, £325 Tercrosset, £315 Home Farm, £300 Fowrass & Blackside, £298 Fallaw, £285 Home Farm & Blackside.
Beltex £278 Tercrosset, £230 Thackwood, £220 Tercrosset.
Charollais £270, £212, £205 Thackwood.
Suffolk £240 Wester Oathlaw, £224,

£214 Beckfoot, £212 Studholme & Windyknowe.
Blue Leicester £216 Beckfoot.
Cheviot Mule £204 Tercrosset, £192 Fowrass, £190 Kilnford Croft, Thornship & Killoclaw.
Dutch Spotted £202 Coxhill.
Mule £196 Mosser Gate, £189 Leithenhall, £188, £175 Kirkhill, £174 Beckfoot, Blackford, Porterstown & Leithenhall.

Light ewes

Cheviot £188 Thornship, £174 Rams-eycleugh, £165 Thornship, £163 Drumreach, £160 Glendearg & Kilnford Croft.
Easycare £168 Monellie.
Swaledale £151 Spoutbank.
Blackface £150 Cranberry Brow, £144 Thornton Tower, £134 Tinnis, £130 Brackley & Pole.
Herdwick £134 West Stobswood.
Kendal Rough £134 Gill Head.

Rams

Texel £290, £272, £260 Horsemarket.
Suffolk £285 Logie Durno, £240 Beckfoot, £228 Guardsmill.
Charollais £255 Beckfoot.
Cheviot £250 Horsemarket.
Bluefaced Leicester £220, £200 The Ash.

Beltex £200 Blackside.
Lleyn £195 Incheoch.
Blue Texel £190 Meikle Dykes.

Averages:

Lambs

Light to	—p (—p)
Standard to	454.0p (427.1p)
Medium to	489.0p (453.7p)
Heavy to	479.0p (442.3p)
Overweight to	547.0p (445.0p)

Hoggs

Light to	355.0p (296.3p)
Standard to	451.0p (385.4p)
Medium to	497.0p (413.6p)
Heavy to	475.0p (422.9p)

Ewes

Light to	£188.00 (£116.68)
Heavy to	£395.00 (£183.37)
Rams to	£290.00 (£186.56)



LOCAL NOTICEBOARD



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
W/C 8th June 2026

	Quilters Group	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Mon	Mending Monday	1-3	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
	Arts & Crafts Club P1 - S6	3.15 - 4	The Buccleuch Centre
Tues	After School Club	4-5.30	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
	Langholm Evening In Stitches	6-8	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Wed	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Sat	Gretna Community Producers Market	9.30-12	All Saints Church, DG16 5DH

Scrap Store is open
Monday - Saturday 10-3

Booking required, please visit
CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS

Langholm Musical Society

AGM

To be held in
The Telford Room
Langholm Town Hall
on Monday 8th June at 7pm

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WHAT'S ON IN JUNE		
Fri 5th	Eskdale & Liddesdale Archaeological Society Detectorist Talk	Eskdalemuir Hub 7pm
Sun 7th	Nature Connections Intro to Wildlife Recording	Eskdalemuir Hub 10am - 1pm
Thurs 11th	Firelight Trio (D&G Arts Festival)	Eskdalemuir Hub 7.30pm
Mon 15th	Dementia catch up	Langholm Day Centre 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Wed 17th	Hard of Hearing Group	Langholm Day Centre 1pm - 3pm
Thu 18th	Eskdale Gardening Club Trip to Keswick	Leave Canonbie Public Hall 9.30am
Wed 24th	Craig Revel Horwood 'Revelations' Tour	Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sun 21st	Parish of Eskdale & Liddesdale Church Fete	Langholm Parish Church 2pm
Sun 28th	Cream Teas	The Benty Hall 2pm - 4.30pm

The E&L
General Knowledge Quiz

- No. 2622 answers next week
- 1 In which year was King Charles III born?

2 In Scotland, what name is given to a person who guides another who is hunting or fishing?

3 Which museum can be found in London's Covent Garden?

4 What do Fairbourne, Mount Snowdon and Leighton Buzzard have in common?

5 In which English county would you find Babbacombe Bay?

6 The site of what was once in Whitehall near Charing Cross, then near to Westminster Bridge and is now in Broadway, Westminster?

7 Which English county has the longest name?

8 What are Deveraux, Flint's, Wakefield, Cradle, Bloody, Brick and Martin?

9 Who sang of the "Mull of Kintyre"?

10 After London's St Paul's and York's Minster, what is Britain's third largest cathedral?
- 11 Which non-native birds are a feature of London's St James's Park?

12 In Scotland, which insect is nicknamed the 'Devil's darning needle'?

13 In which English city were both Charles Dickens and Isambard Kingdom Brunel born?

14 Which bay's outer extremities are made up of Berry Head and Hope's Nose?

15 In which English county is the town of Ilminster?

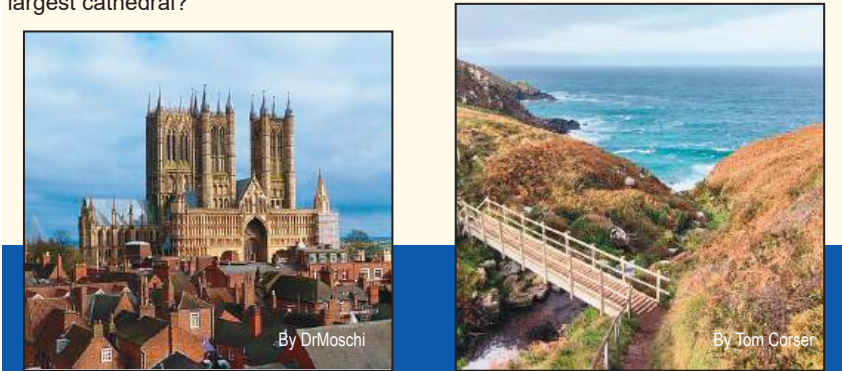
16 What is the largest reptile, other than a snake, found in Britain?

17 On the coastline of which English county are Gwennap Head and Zennor Head to be found?

18 Of which palace are the Triumphal Way, the Water Gardens and the Sunken Italian Gardens key features?

19 Which main road cuts through Bodmin Moor

20 At which castle was Mary Queen of Scots beheaded?



NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2622 A mix of general knowledge and cryptic clues think. Answers next week

Crossword & Quiz
Solutions from
last week

- Quiz 2621
- 1 Parliament Square

2 River Nith

3 Aberystyth

4 Stonehenge

5 Winchester College

6 New Forest

7 Edinburgh

8 Northern

9 HMS Victory

10 Canterbury and York

11 Battle of Hastings

12 Brighton

13 Vale of Evesham

14 Viscount Linley

15 Towcester

16 Cheshire

17 Museum of the Moving Image

18 1975

19 Congestion Charge

20 Blues and Royals
- Crossword 2621
- Across: 6 Allow, 7 Scurry, 8 Spur, 9 Noontide, 10 Dangle, 12 Gamma, 14 Dad, 16 Melon, 17 Retire, 19 Countess, 21 Togo, 22 Sloped, 23 Icing.

Down: 1 Warplane, 2 Blur, 3 Twinned, 4 Subtract, 5 Trod, 7 Shop, 11 Grown-ups, 13 Mortgage, 15 Drastic, 18 Bend, 20 Oily, 21 Trio.

- Across
- 6 Model Five fired men at the moon (6)

8 Many canoes get upset (6)

9 Olivia Newton-John sang about its banks (4)

10 Scorn (8)

11 Vermin catcher (6)

13 Have the helm (5)

15 Nought (3)

17 Leash (5)

18 Twelve --- High (1949 Gregory Peck film) (6)

20 Short of a Beatles album? (8)

22 Movable barrier (4)

23 Bring in from abroad (6)

24 Las Vegas' state (6)
- Down
- 1 Greek spirit (4)

2 If it ever existed, it missed the boat in Noah's time (7)

3 Attractive (5)

4 Statue support (8)

5 Crack (4)

7 Disturbed that war goes from side to side (7)

12 Stirrer (8)

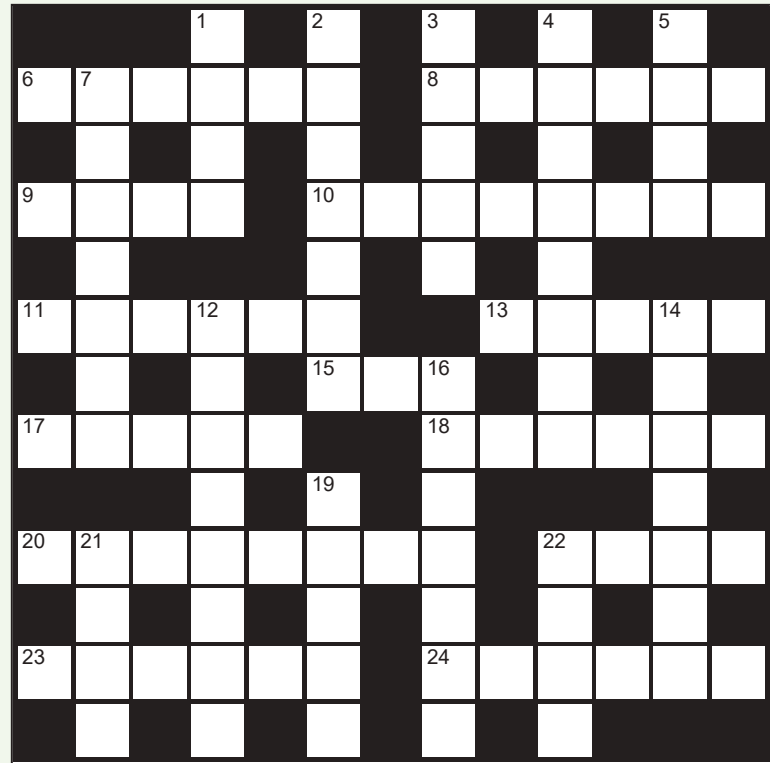
14 Agitated (7)

16 Slackens (7)

19 Euro fractions (5)

21 Trees badly affected by fungal attack (4)

22 Donated (4)



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PUBLIC NOTICES

(B709 LANGHOLM – ETTRICK – INNERLEITHEN) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER) ORDER 2026

The Council has made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to temporarily close B709 from the junction of C79a at The Smithy to outside Mount View, Eskdalemuir from 0930 to 1530 on 18/06/26. The closure is necessary to facilitate overhead jointing works. Alternative route available via B709, B711, A7 and vice versa. Emergency access will be available if required. Pedestrian access will be maintained.


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Langholm RFC holds Awards Night



Rugby

Langholm Rugby Club held their end of season awards presentation on Friday night. Having enjoyed an excellent meal served by the Douglas Hotel, the players, coaches, team managers and other members of the club went on to present the awards for the season. Coach Craig Hislop gave a run-down of the season just finished. Langholm finished fourth in East League 1. The first half of the season had been very good

with some memorable wins both home and away. However, due to a number of injuries, the second half had been much tougher. He thanked all the players, coaches and everybody involved with the club for their support. The awards were then presented.

Man of the Match award - **Bailey Donaldson**.

Young Player of the Year - **Ellis Dirom**.

Players Player and Coach's Player of the Year - **Bailey Donaldson**.

A good night was had by all!



Ellis Dirom and Bailey Donaldson with their well-deserved awards

LCC's 1976 Cricketing legends

Cricket Legends

Continuing Langholm's 1976 cricketing legends, with the spotlight, this week, falling on Billy Currie.

Billy played 87 games for the club between 1967 and 1979, scoring 340 runs and taking 23 catches during his time at the Castleholm. He was best known around the team for having a "muckle arm" — or "big arm" for anyone trying to translate — and could fire the ball in from the boundary like a rocket straight into the wicketkeeper's gloves.

Although Billy's playing career with the club lasted just 12 years, he made a huge impact both on and off the field. Fiercely competitive, he gave 100% every time he stepped on to the park, but away from the action he enjoyed nothing more than sharing a sociable drink with his teammates after a hard day's cricket.

Billy played six matches in that famous 1976 title-winning season, with a highest score of 37 not out. Winning the Border League with Langholm meant the world to Billy and remains the highlight of his cricketing career. Like so many from that side, he often spoke about the incredible team spirit within the squad and how it carried them all the way to lifting the championship trophy.

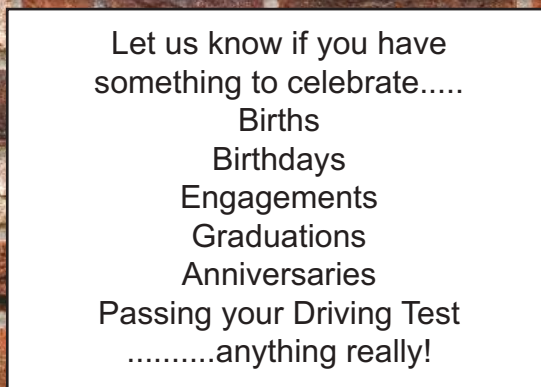
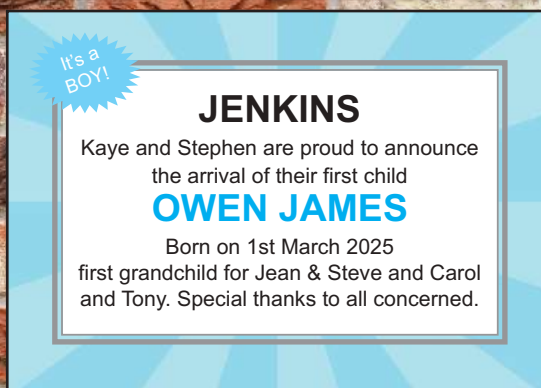
After retiring from playing, Billy remained a loyal supporter of the club, regularly making his way up to the Castleholm to enjoy a drink or two.



Billy now resides at Burnfoot Care Home near Ecclefechan, and everyone at Langholm Cricket Club sends him their very best wishes. He is a man who gave everything for his club and teammates, and we hope he can celebrate the club's 50th anniversary in his own special way.

Billy Currie — another true Langholm legend who will never be forgotten at the Castleholm.

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Copshaw wins the Arthur Gibson trophy

20 triples take part to remember popular bowler

Bowling

By Luke Tolson

On Saturday the New Town Bowling Club held their Open Round Robin Triples Tournament for the Arthur Gibson Trophy.

Thanks very much to Kevan Hotson for sponsoring the tournament yet again - he sponsors this every year and it is much appreciated.

The format was five games of six ends and the winner of each group proceeded to a semi-final.

Winners were:

Alistair Elliot
Danny Hetherington
Billy Ewart
of Newcastleton - well done lads!

Runners- up were:

Paul Warwick
Carolle Warwick
David Pool -
hard luck guys!

Beaten semi-finalists were:

Ged Smith
Steven Barker
Duncan Ritchie



Winners: Alistair Elliot, Danny Hetherington, Billy Ewart of Newcastleton pictured with Paul Warwick, Carolle Warwick, David Pool and Luke Tolson

and
Eddie Stewart
Andy Lowrie
Aaran Gillis

Thanks to the 20 triples that entered the tournament and to everyone who bought raffle tickets and bonus balls.

Thanks to the catering staff, bar staff and green workers for their hard work to make it a success.

Secretary Luke Tolson presented the prizes on behalf of our Vice president.



Legion will bounce back from relegation

Football



By David Borthwick

Despite our win vs Tweeddale last week, the result on Saturday between Greenlaw and Hawick Utd didn't go in our favour and sadly confirms our fate, with the season ending in relegation to the B division.

The club has been in the B division previously and bounced back strongly and I have full confidence that we can do the same.

Keep an eye on the page for updates on pre-season training starting as it won't be long before the hard work starts.

Thank you to The Douglas Hotel for their sponsorship and hospitality. And to everyone who has supported the club throughout this season, it has been very much appreciated.

Thank you to the players for their efforts and particularly to those who help run the club whose commitment has been unwavering all season.

Langholm Girls FC Under 12s play well in toasty conditions

Girls Football

Langholm Girls Football Club U12s travelled to The Sheepmount in Carlisle on Sunday to take part in the Northbank Festival.

Langholm played three games in a round robin format, and, in warm conditions, the girls performed extremely well, showing great effort, teamwork, and determination throughout the afternoon.

Goal scorers for Langholm were Sadi and Lana

A special mention to the girls who stepped up from the U10s to help out and play a game for the U12s after already playing this morning for the U10s. Their willingness to support the team was greatly appreciated and they did themselves proud.

Well done to all the players for representing the club.



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